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MESSAGES FROM THE MARSH

The E-Newsletter of the MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENT CENTER, a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission Facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey

April 2006

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EDUCATIONAL NEWS: Dr. Cristini Named to National Academy of Sciences Committee



Dr. Angela Cristini, director of the Meadowlands Environment Center, a professor of biology and the executive director of special programs at Ramapo College of New Jersey, has been invited by the National Academy of Sciences to serve on the Committee on Informal Science Learning.

[For more information on Dr. Cristini and this award...](#)

EVENTS AT THE CENTER



Eggs-ellent!

Sunday, April 9

1:00 p.m.

- Ages 5-7 accompanied by an adult
- Members \$8 admits one adult and one child
- Non-members \$10 admits one adult and one child
- \$5 for each additional participant
- Pre-registration required.

Eggs are associated with several spring traditions, so come learn all about these incredible, edible wonders. We'll find out who lays them, how big they can be, and how long they can take to hatch. We'll also play some fun egg games, and make a surprising spring craft to take home. All materials provided.

- **Fantastic Fish**
- Saturday, April 22nd
- 11:00 a.m.
- Ages: 8-10 years old accompanied by an adult
- Members \$8 admits one adult and one child; \$5 for each additional participant.
- Non Members \$10 admits one adult and one child. \$5 for each additional participant.
- Pre-registration required.

How many different species of fish call the Meadowlands their home? How do these fish avoid becoming meals for their many predators? Find out the answers to these questions and more through hands-on activities and games. Participants will go dipnetting for fish in our salt marsh where they will catch and identify some of our scaly inhabitants.

[To view an electronic version of the schedule...](#)

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS: Summer Camp 2006

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This summer, kids from ages 6 to 13 will take part in the third annual "Summer Camp in the Meadowlands", an exciting summer camp experience at the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Meadowlands Environment Center. During the months of July and August, the Center will offer 4 environmentally themed week-long summer programs, each designed to

explore the estuaries of the Hackensack River.

### Marsh Explorers

- When: July 10-14 or August 7-11
- Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Ages: Entering Grades 1 & 2
- Cost: \$100 per child

### Hopping Through Habitats

- When: July 10-14 or August 7-11
- Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Ages: Entering Grades 3 & 4
- Cost: \$150 per child

### Upstream, Downstream

- When: July 24-28 or August 14-18
- Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Ages: Entering Grades 5 & 6

- Cost: \$150 per child

## **Water, Water Everywhere**

- When: July 24-28 or August 14-18
- Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Ages: Entering Grades 7 & 8
- Cost: \$150 per child

The Summer Camp program is part of an overall series of education-focused programs offered by the Center.

[For additional information...](#)

### **MEET THE STAFF: Welcome Douglas Platt**

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This month we welcome a new employee to the Meadowlands Environment Center. Douglas Platt has joined our staff of environmental educators. Mr. Platt comes to us with over 5 years of teaching experience. He has previously worked as both a high school science teacher and an adjunct professor at a New Jersey Community College. Doug is excited to be at the Meadowlands Environment Center. Having come from a bricks and mortar setting, he welcomes the opportunity to work with students in the outdoor classroom setting provided by the natural wonders within Richard DeKorte Park.

MEC PARTNERSHIPS: Meadowlands Liberty Convention & Visitors Bureau to hold Eco-Triathlon in conjunction with MeadowFest

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**Meadowlands Liberty**  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Meadowlands Environment Center and its staff from Ramapo College of New Jersey are proud to support the efforts of MeadowFest and the Meadowlands Liberty Triathlon.

The Meadowlands Liberty Triathlon, will be an early morning athletic event that will start at the Meadowlands Sports Complex with a ten-mile bike race, followed by a 3-kilometer row down the Hackensack River, and concluding with a 4 mile run through the Harmon Cove mixed-use complex to

Laurel Hill Park.

"The outdoor activities we have planned are designed to bring attention not only to the many unique destination assets we have here in the Meadowlands but also to celebrate the reclamation of our natural resources," explains Jim Kirkos, president of the Meadowlands Liberty CVB. "We have the competitive eco-triathlon kicking off the day and an array of outdoor activities for the whole family including hot air balloon rides, and a surprise musical performance slated - now that's a celebration of our region and our resources!"

[For additional information on the Triathlon and MeadowFest...](#)

### **MEC PARTNERSHIPS: Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce honors NJMC chair Susan Bass Levin**

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Each year at the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Gala, four leaders in business, education, public service, and community or civic affairs are singled out for extraordinary contributions.

This year the Chamber has selected Susan Bass Levin, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and NJMC Chair, as their Public Official of the Year.

The Annual Awards Gala known as Taste of the Meadowlands will be held:

- Thursday, April 6, 2006
- Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel and Convention Center
- 7pm - 11pm

[For additional information on the event...](#)

MEC PARTNERSHIPS: Nature Program Cooperative

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#### **April NPC Event: Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey**

- Sponsored by the Nature Program Cooperative
- Hosted by the Lorrimer Nature Sanctuary and Snakes-N-Scales at Lorrimer Nature Sanctuary
- Thursday, April 20, 2006
- 6:00 p.m.

Pat "The Nat" Scheuer for an up-close look at New Jersey's resident herptiles. An informative slide show and lecture will highlight the biology, behavior, and status of the 75 species of reptiles and amphibians found in New Jersey. The indoor slide show will be accompanied by a presentation by Snakes-n-Scales featuring several live specimens and providing participants with a closer look at some of our cold-blooded friends. Afterwards, we'll head outside to look for herps along Lorrimer's trails- we'll leave no stone unturned!

FREE for members / nonmembers: \$5 per person or \$15 per family  
For more information call Patrick Scheuer at (201) 891-2185

The Nature Program Cooperative is a network of organizations that provide quality nature programs.

Throughout the year, different nature organizations will host an outdoor activity or indoor educational program at a nature center or other appropriate location to which all network participants are invited. We hope to encourage more people to visit the Meadowlands to the south, the Palisades to the east, the reservoirs to the north and the Highlands to the west, and everywhere in between.

When applicable, member discounts will apply to all Co-op partner members and supporters. For example, when the Meadowlands Environment Center hosts an event, members of all other groups pay the MEC member rate. Non-members are also welcome to attend. All events will be advertised in each group's newsletter.

[To learn more about the Nature Program Cooperative...](#)

### **NJMC FLYWAY GALLERY**

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Perspectives - the art of Zygmunt Cichy and Karen Floriani

- April 3rd through April 30th

Public reception

- Sunday, April 9th
- 12:30 - 2:00 pm
- Meadowlands Environment Center

[For more information on the NJMC Arts in the Meadowlands Program...](#)

NJMC ECO-TOURISM EVENTS: Evening boat cruises to begin in May



Experience first hand the sights and sounds of a river and wetlands complex that is only five miles from Manhattan. Celebrate the Hackensack River in its unique urban wilderness aboard a New Jersey Meadowlands Commission pontoon boat during one of this season's evening boat cruises.

All boats are fully equipped and piloted by Coast Guard qualified captains. For more information, or to register for a cruise, call the NJMC at 201-460-4640.

[To view the 2006 boat schedule](#)

Quick Links...

- [MEC Website](#)
- [MEC Schedule of Events Registration](#)
- [MEC School Program Registration](#)
- [MEC Media Center](#)
- [New Jersey Meadowlands Commission](#)
- [Ramapo College of New Jersey](#)
- [Meadowlands Conservation Trust](#)

Lara Rodriguez

email: lara.rodriquez@njmeadowlands.gov

phone: 201-460-4608

web: <http://njmeadowlands.gov/ec>

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